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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,377	04/21/2005	Edward Zheng	100697.0016US	4273

34284 7590 02/16/2007
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EXAMINER

LIU, JONATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3673

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,377

Applicant(s)

ZHENG, EDWARD

Examiner

Jonathan J. Liu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-14 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-10 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Upon further consideration, prosecution is re-opened in this case and a new non-final action on the merits is set forth below

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu (US 6,467,109). Wu discloses a hammock stand comprising four legs (4), four support rods (2, 3) to which a hammock is coupled, and a pair of cross braces (5), wherein the legs, the support rods, and the cross braces are coupled to each other such that the hammock stand collapses in a single movement in which two of the four legs approximate each other in a front-to-back and side-to-side motion (see figures 3-5) as two of the support rods pivot towards each other, and wherein the second of the four legs is coupled to the first of the support rods via a connector rod (1), wherein the pair of cross braces are rotatably coupled to each other (through members 1-3), and wherein at least one of the cross braces is rotatably coupled to the first of the four legs (through members 1 and 2), and rotatably coupled to a third of the support rods (see examiner's attachment).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 6,467,109) in view of Bien (US 3,464,069). Wu teaches a hammock stand comprising four legs (4), four support rods (2, 3) to which a hammock is coupled, and a pair of cross braces (5), wherein the legs, the support rods, and the cross braces are coupled to each other such that the hammock stand collapses in a single movement in which two of the four legs approximate each other in a front-to-back and side-to-side motion (see figures 3-5) as two of the support rods pivot towards each other, and wherein the second of the four legs is coupled to the first of the support rods via a connector rod (1) that forms an obtuse angle with the second of the four legs when the hammock stand is in an open configuration (see examiner's attachment). However, Wu does not teach wherein the connector rod releasably engages the first of the support rods. Bien teaches that rivets and screws are equivalent fastening means (col. 3, lines 31-33). Wu and Bien are analogous because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. collapsible supports. It would have been obvious to make the rivets (12) of Wu to be screws – thereby making the connector rod (Wu: 1) releasably engagable with the first

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support rod (Wu: 3). The motivation would have been to provide a means to replace specific rods (i.e. members 1-4) of Wu without having to replace the whole stand (due to the releasable connection of the screws at member 11 of Wu). Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the invention to Wu as specified in claim 1.

With regards to claim 2, a first and second of the four legs are rotatably coupled to each other (through member 1 of Wu).

Regarding claim 3, a first support rod is rotatably coupled to the first of the four legs (through member 1 of Wu) and wherein a second of the support rods is rotatably coupled to the second of the four legs (through member 1 of Wu; see examiner's attachment).

With regards to claim 6, the cross braces in the pair of cross braces are rotatably coupled to each other (through members 1-4 of Wu), and wherein at least one of the cross braces is rotatably coupled to the first of the four legs (through members 1 and 3 of Wu) and rotatably coupled to a third of the support rods (Wu: 3).

In regards to claim 7, the hammock is coupled to at least two of the four support rods via a hook (Wu: 60).

Regarding claim 8, Wu as modified, teaches a flexible element (Wu: 8) that couples the first of the four legs with a third of the four legs and that facilitates collapsing of the hammock stand when the flexible element is pulled upwards relative to the ground and when the hammock stand is in an open configuration.

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With regards to claim 9, it would have been obvious to make the net of Wu a sheet of fabric (as shown by member 36 of Bien) as an alternative expedient for support.

In regards to claim 10, the sheet of fabric inherently comprises a handle (anywhere where one can grab said sheet).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan J. Liu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Patricia Engle
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3673

Jonathan Liu
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3673

Attachment:

Figure 1 of Wu (US 6,467,109)

EXAMINER'S
ATTACHMENT

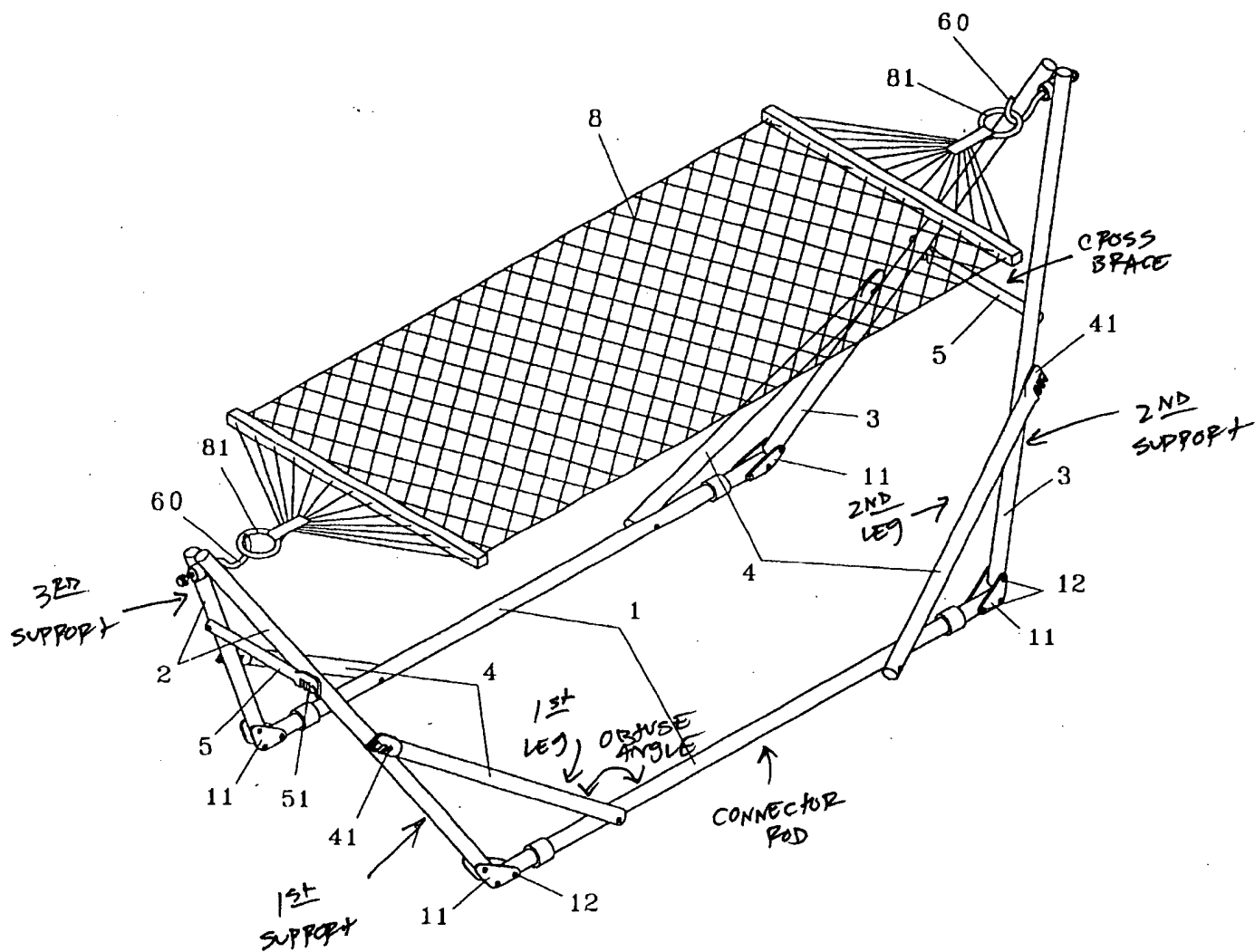


FIG. 1